the KVIC to Rajasthan during the last three years and the additional employment generated are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Funds released	Additional employment created
2000-01	1748.29	24,410
2001-02	2839.69	46,724
2002-03	3035.64	43,040

U.S. help in nuclear power plants

1184. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has declined to help India to set up nuclear power plants;

(b) whether the issue of possible Indo-U.S. cooperation in the civilian nuclear and space areas was raised by India in the recent talks with U.S.A.; and

(c) what are the areas where U.S.- India high technology cooperation would take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government has not requested United States assistance in setting up nuclear power plants.

(b) Government is engaged in a dialogue with the United States to develop and expand civilian nuclear and space cooperation, after the United States lifted, in September, 2001, the sanctions imposed on India in May, 1998. This dialogue is predicated on India maintaining its indigenous nuclear weapons and missiles programmes.

(c) India and the United States have initiated five safety related projects for safeguarded nuclear facilities. Exchange of visits by U.S. and Indian nuclear regulatory officials has also commenced. In the area of space, the two sides have renewed the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in earth and atmospheric sciences. The United States has offered to resume cooperation in space applications

for sustainable development, weather research missions, tele-medicine, tele-education and disaster management. Joint workshops on civilian space applications and research have also started.

As part of the process of stimulating high technology commerce, including trade in 'dual use' items, the two sides have established a bilateral High Technology Cooperation Group, which held its first meeting in Washington D.C. on 1-2 July, 2003. This is the first such group that the United States has set up with any country. The Group discussed regulatory and promotional issues related to enhancing trade in 'dual use' goods and technologies, including for civilian nuclear and space applications in India, as well as advancing cooperation in areas such as information technology, life sciences, nano-technology and defence technology.

Exposure of workers to radiation

1185. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers of Kalpakkam Atomic Reprocessing Plant were over-exposed to high radiation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken as safety measures to avoid such incidents in future;

(d) whether the victims can continue with the present job after this incident; and

(e) whether Government would provide any compensation to the victims taking into account the damage caused to their lives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been an incident of over-exposure of six persons at the Kalpakkam Reprocessing Plant (KARP) on January 21, 2003.

(b) On January 21, 2003, when the Reprocessing Plant was under normal operation, there was an incident of inadvertent over-exposure to radiation of six persons during the process of transfer of low level liquid waste from a tank in an area, away from the main Reprocessing Plant. The cause of the incident, as identified later on by a specially constituted Technical Committee, was a minor leak in an isolation valve